

00905

1972/01/24

PRIVACY CHANNEL ~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE~~ January 24, 1972

ACTION: THE WHITE HOUSE 0024

EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER FROM BUNKER

REF: WHS 2011

SUBJECT: Comments of President Thieu on Points in President
Nixon's Speech.

1. Thieu made following comments and suggestions on points in the draft of the President's speech.

a) Paragraph 2. Beginning with "The offer that I shall now present, on behalf of the Government of the United States and the Government of South Viet-Nam.....", Thieu would like to include the words "with the full knowledge and approval of President Thieu" or "the offer I shall now present is a proposal of the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Viet-Nam made after consultation with and with the approval of President Thieu".

2. Paragraph 44 (by my reckoning). Beginning "Here is the essence of our peace plan". The paragraph referring to elections provides that "it would be organized and run by an independent body representing all political forces in South Viet-Nam, including the Viet Cong". Thieu would prefer to use the term "National Liberation Front" instead of the "Viet Cong". He points out that he never has used the word Viet Cong, but has always referred to "the so-called

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National Liberation Front. He does not suggest that the President use the words "so-called", but simply refer to it as "the National Liberation Front."

3. Paragraph 46. Beginning with the words "with President Thieu's full knowledge and approval.....", the middle of the first sentence reading "we make this offer as part of the peace plan:" Thieu would prefer to have it read "I and President Thieu". He points out that "we" translated into Vietnamese is equivalent to the polite form of "I". Since it will be a Vietnamese election, for domestic political considerations, it is important to have it presented along the lines of his suggestion.

4. Other comments or questions raised by Thieu:

- a) When does the President propose to announce that he will speak?
- b) How and when will the statement of principles be surfaced in Washington? I replied that, as I had already informed him, you would be holding a background session with the press and that I assumed the proposal would appear in the press the morning after the President's speech, i. e., Wednesday morning, January 26, Washington time (Wednesday evening, Saigon time).
- c) When we use the term "withdrawal of all U. S. forces", does this apply to U. S. forces in Thailand or to the Seventh Fleet? I said

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that the statement of principles applied to forces in Indochina, not to forces elsewhere in the world.

d) Rather than risk transmission of the statement of principles and instructions to Ambassador Lam, he has instructed Lam to return to Saigon. Thieu will brief him and have him return immediately to Paris. Lam will arrive in Saigon this afternoon, January 24.

5. Thieu worked all day yesterday and is working today on draft of his speech. He said that he would have it for me late today or tonight and I will transmit it immediately. I went over with him again the running of the time clocks and I think he has the problem clearly in mind now.

6. Warm regards.



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